

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 20, 26, 27, 29, 31 and 32 are pending, with claim 20 amended, and claims 18, 28, 33 and 34 cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, by the present amendment. Claim 1 is independent.

Information Disclosure Citation

Applicants thank the Examiner for considering the references supplied with the Information Disclosure Statement filed June 24, 2011, and for providing Applicants with an initialed copy of the PTO-SB08 form filed therewith.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph

Claim 18 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner states that claim 18 does not comply with the written description requirement by reciting both “stripe shaped” and a “plurality of connection units.”

This rejection is respectfully traversed because claim 18 has been canceled. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 18, 20, 28, 33 and 34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner has set forth certain instances wherein the claim language lacks antecedent basis or is not clearly understood.

In order to overcome this rejection, Applicants have canceled claims 18, 28, 33 and 34 and amended claim 20 to depend from claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims, as amended, particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner states that claims 1, 26, 27, 29, 31 and 32 are allowed. Applicants thank the Examiner for the early indication of allowable subject matter in this application.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

In view of the above amendment, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Michael E. Monaco, Registration No. 52,041, at the telephone number of the undersigned below to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Director is hereby authorized to charge any fees required during the pendency of the above-identified application or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448.

Dated: OCT 21 2011

Respectfully submitted,

By  **DAVID A. BILODEAU**
USPTO #42,325

James T. Eller, Jr.

Registration No.: 39,538

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

8110 Gatehouse Road, Suite 100 East

P.O. Box 747

Falls Church, VA 22040-0747

703-205-8000